

of Fisheries, Maharashtra State, and Dr. H. G. Kewalramani, Research Officer, for going carefully through this paper.

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16. 'AN UNUSUAL METHOD OF CURING SCORPION STINGS'

I was interested in Mr. Humayun Abdulali's letter of August 1st, 1960 (Vol. 57, No. 3) on the subject of curing scorpion stings.

I remember, when I was in the Army and my Division was, in 1942, in a training area in the Deccan, meeting an Irish doctor in charge of a Field Hospital who told me he had to cope with something like a hundred scorpion stings a day. He said he had been most impressed by a method he had learned locally of how to cure them. He stated that, provided the sting was on some part of the body where you could work the poison out to an extremity, such as a foot or a hand, a full cure could be achieved in relatively few minutes. All that you had to do was to bring together, on to the place where the patient had been stung, the points of—well, he said more or less anything, a pair of sharpened pencils, a couple of scissors or even two rusty nails!—and then slowly start stroking the flesh, firmly but not to the point of breaking the skin, in a downward direction towards an extremity. He said it was amazing how you could literally push the poison along quite quickly, the end of the exercise being achieved when you had brought it down to the ball of, say, a finger-tip, at which stage you could, merely by pricking the skin and exerting pressure with your thumb-nails, eject the blob of poison out of the finger with a sharp pinch.

I never had the opportunity of witnessing the curing of a patient by these means (though I was invited to do so) but that was his story.

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